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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

STATUS OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its second session, held in August/September 1994, the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development had before it a report on the status of the preparations for the Summit (A/CONF.166/PC/15). The present report provides an update of the preparatory activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Summit since September 1994.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE SEPTEMBER 1994

2. The Secretariat is working very closely with the host Government of Denmark in ensuring that all necessary arrangements will be in place at the time of the Summit in March 1995. Various organizational units of the Secretariat are also working with the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development to ensure that all such arrangements are carried out in a coordinated manner.

3. Since issuing invitations to Heads of State and Government in May 1994 to attend the Summit in March 1995 in Copenhagen, the Secretary-General had received by the end of 1994 close to 70 official replies from Heads of State and Government confirming their attendance at the Summit.

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* A/CONF.166/PC/24.

4. The Preparatory Committee, in its decision 2/2, encouraged the United Nations, the United Nations system, Governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and institutes to continue their initiatives to support the preparation for the Summit, including seminars, workshops and symposia on issues of direct relevance to the Summit. From 7 to 9 October 1994, a Symposium on Social Development was organized by China's Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development. The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the Symposium, for its organization of the meeting and for its financial contribution towards the convening of the meeting. Participation of international experts was financed by the United Nations Development Programme and by the United Nations, through the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development. The report of the Symposium (A/CONF.166/PC/26) will be before the Preparatory Committee at its present session.

5. A seminar on the Ethical and Spiritual Dimensions of Social Progress was organized by the Secretariat in Bled, Slovenia, from 28 to 30 October 1994. The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the Government of Slovenia for hosting the seminar, and for its assistance and support in the organization of the meeting. The Secretary-General is also grateful to the Governments of Austria, France and Switzerland for their generous financial support in defraying the travel and related costs of participants to the seminar. The report of the seminar (A/CONF.166/PC/27) will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee during its present session.

6. At the regional level, supportive activities were carried out by the regional commissions. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convened the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, in Manila from 12 to 18 October 1994, and adopted the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. This document will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its present session.

7. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a regional preparatory meeting for the World Summit for Social Development in Amman in the last quarter of 1994 on issues to be directly addressed by the Summit. The Arab Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit for Social Development, held in Cairo from 13 to 15 December 1994, adopted the Arab Declaration for Social Development. The document will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its present session.

8. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will be organizing a workshop entitled "Population ageing in Europe and North America: A message to the Social Summit", at Geneva on 13 and 14 February 1995. The workshop will be held in cooperation with the American Association for Retired Persons and possibly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). ECE is also considering participating in the organization of some workshops at the NGO Forum at Copenhagen at the time of the Summit.

9. During 1994, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) supported 16 seminars and workshops on the Summit carried out in the Latin American region, held three intergovernmental preparatory meetings and provided substantive inputs to the work of the Executive Secretariat of the Latin American Commission on the World Summit for Social Development. The Second Caribbean Preparatory Meeting to the World Summit for Social Development took place in Antigua and Barbuda from 6 to 8 December 1994. At that meeting, the Caribbean countries approved their Guidelines for Action to deal with social problems in the subregion. ECLAC will also be providing a substantive contribution to the Meeting of Ministers in charge of Social Matters for the Rio Group, which is scheduled to take place in Santiago, Chile, on 10 and 11 January 1995.

10. With regard to the Economic Commission for Africa, it will be recalled that the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development met in January 1994 and adopted a document entitled "African common position on human and social development in Africa", which was submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its first session.

11. The Preparatory Committee, recognizing the importance of promoting national preparations for the Summit, expressed its gratitude to the States that submitted national reports, and invited Governments that have not yet done so to establish national committees. As of the date of the present report, over 30 national reports have been received, and the Secretariat has been informed of the establishment of 26 national committees for the Summit.

12. Inter-agency cooperation continued. United Nations agencies, programmes and organizations have been active in organizing meetings, seminars and workshops on subjects related to the Summit and carrying out activities in support of the Summit. These organizations also provided input to the Secretariat in the finalization of the draft programme of action.

13. Interest shown by non-governmental organizations and their participation in the preparatory process for the Summit has been increasing. It will be recalled that at its first session, 76 new non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Summit and its preparatory process. At its second session, 285 new organizations were accredited. It is expected that at its third session, over 650 new organizations will be recommended for accreditation (see A/CONF.166/PC/11/Add.2 and 3). The Secretariat has reached out to non-governmental communities in different regions of the world, with the assistance of the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations information centres.

14. Preparations in Denmark for the parallel forum of non-governmental organizations, "NGO Forum 95", are well under way. It will be held from 2 to 12 March 1995 in Holmen, Copenhagen.

III. TRUST FUND FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

15. Since the establishment of the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development in September 1993 in response to General Assembly resolution 47/92, 13 countries (Australia, Austria, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Holy See, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey) have contributed to the Trust Fund. Through this Trust Fund, the Secretariat was able to finance the participation of delegations from the least developed countries in the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee, and of experts and individuals from the least developed and other countries in seminars and meetings. The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the above-mentioned countries for their generosity and support.

IV. PUBLIC INFORMATION

16. At its second session, the Preparatory Committee had before it a detailed report of activities undertaken to implement the media strategy and public information programme to promote the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/PC/15, sect. IV and annex). In its decision 2/2 D, the Committee noted these activities with appreciation and encouraged the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts in bringing the Summit to the attention of the widest possible audience. The present report outlines the activities undertaken by the Department to publicize the Summit since the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

17. Also in its decision 2/2 D, the Committee encouraged all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to include the Summit and its objectives in their public information activities. To coordinate system-wide information activities to promote the Summit, an ad hoc session of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) was held in Copenhagen on 9 November 1994. The following organizations and agencies of the United Nations system reported the inclusion of publicity on the Summit in their information activities: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Meteorological Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

18. In July 1994, a Working Group on Information Activities for the Summit was convened under the chairmanship of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. The Working Group comprises the heads of the public information offices of several United Nations agencies, organizations and programmes. The

Group has met on a regular basis since its inception to identify needs and priorities and to coordinate joint activities.

19. The products and activities described below are being produced or undertaken by the Department of Public Information to promote the Summit.

1. Print products issued at Headquarters

20. Since 1 August 1994, some 30 print products have been distributed world wide to United Nations information centres and other United Nations field offices for redissemination, and to media, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, government ministries and others. These products include fact sheets, backgrounders, press releases, information kits, brochures, posters and other promotional material. A few of these were reprints of previously issued material, some were up-dated revisions of previously issued material and 18 were entirely new products. All of these were produced in English, French and Spanish. Some, such as the Summit poster and brochure, were produced in all six official languages. Many were translated into local languages by United Nations information centres for national and regional dissemination (see sect. 4 below).

21. For most items, the print run totalled about 40,000 copies each. Some items have been disseminated in larger quantities: for example, more than 74,000 copies of the poster have been disseminated so far (out of a total print run of 100,000 copies) and 89,000 copies of the brochure (out of a print run of 120,000 copies).

22. All 15,000 copies of the press information kit produced for the second session of the Preparatory Committee have been disseminated. Some 15,000 additional copies of the kit, with updated material, have been produced for use in connection with the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the Summit itself.

23. At least 16 new and additional print items will be produced and disseminated before the Summit.

24. The JUNIC Fact Sheet series continues to be produced and disseminated, as reported to the Preparatory Committee at its second session. A collation of the total series (numbering about 27 items contributed by United Nations agencies, organizations and programmes) will be available at the Summit. Individual Fact Sheets in the series are being disseminated world wide as they are produced.

25. Articles about the Summit continue to appear in the Department's regular ongoing publications. For example, a 12-page supplement about the Summit appeared in the December 1994 issue of UN Chronicle, a quarterly magazine, and an article about the Summit has appeared in each issue of the bimonthly newsletter Development Update. The recent edition of Africa Recovery included an article about Summit-related issues.

26. Work is nearing completion on the production of the publication Notes for Speakers, expected to be issued later in January.

27. Although the Department of Public Information has not been successful in raising additional funding to support a media advertising campaign, work is continuing on in-house production and placement in the international media of print, radio and television public service announcements on an "as-space-is-available" basis, as well as on op-ed articles for placement in the print media.

2. Radio and television

28. A 30-second television "spot" (public service announcement) has been produced in all six languages, together with an international soundtrack to enable local language versions to be made. The spot is being distributed world wide through United Nations information centres to national broadcasters. In the United States, it has been accepted for broadcast by a number of commercial networks: ABC will play it in time-slots during Nightline and Good Morning America and will recommend it to local affiliates; CBS will use it in unspecified time-slots and recommend it to local affiliates; CNN will use it starting in January.

29. A television documentary, Toil and Trouble, is being completed and will be distributed at the end of January in two versions: 50 minutes for television broadcast and 30 minutes for other uses such as briefings and educational purposes. The video was filmed in the Republic of Korea, Finland, Mexico and Cameroon.

30. A five-part radio series has been completed and is being disseminated to national broadcasters in 12 languages. Radio "spots" (public service announcements) are also being produced.

31. Since July, four half-hour television interview programmes have been made on the Summit issues. Three of these were World Chronicle interviews, with Mr. Ismat Kittani, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General; Mr. James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and Ambassador Juan Somavia, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, respectively. The fourth was a round-table discussion on the Summit with Ambassador Somavia, Mr. James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Mr. Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and Mr. Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Public Information. These programmes are distributed to English-language broadcasters world wide.

32. Four UN in Action television news magazine programmes on the Summit issues are in production and will be distributed by the end of January. One additional programme has been distributed (about increasing rural employment in the United Republic of Tanzania). UN in Action is broadcast in about 100 countries.

33. Television coverage of the opening meeting of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, on 22 August 1994, was included in the television news "highlights" package distributed that day to Worldwide Television News (WTN), Reuters and other international television news syndicators. Coverage of other meetings of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and the concluding

press conference held on 2 September with the Chairman and other members of the Committee were also distributed in daily news highlights.

3. Distribution

34. A special mailing of Summit materials, including the latest version of the draft declaration and programme of action (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22), was undertaken in December to some 3,000 specially targeted individuals, including journalists, parliamentarians, academics, government officials, NGOs, business leaders, experts and others in every region of the world. Other mailings to targeted groups, such as journalists, were undertaken to coincide with specific events, as outlined in the media strategy.

35. In addition to the mailings mentioned above, special arrangements were made in December to disseminate the draft declaration and programme of action in all six official languages to United Nations information centres and other United Nations field offices both in hard copy and electronically. United Nations information centres redisseminated the document to the media, NGOs, government officials, experts, the academic community and others at the national level.

36. All print information materials produced about the Summit continued to be distributed in bulk quantities and electronically as outlined in the report to the second session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.166/PC/15, para. 44). Summit documents and other material are available on Internet through a variety of sources, including UNDP gopher, at the following address: "gopher.undp.org." or by E-mail to "gopher@undp.org.".

4. Activities of United Nations information centres

37. United Nations information centres and United Nations offices continue to receive guidance from the Department of Public Information concerning progress being made in the Summit preparatory process and in the implementation of the informational programme and media strategy for the Summit.

38. More than 20 United Nations information centres have translated press kit material (such as the backgrounders, fact sheets or brochure) into languages other than English, French and Spanish and have distributed it nationally and, if appropriate, regionally. These languages include Turkish, Greek, Hebrew, German, Azeri, Tagalog, Thai, Russian, Arabic, Dutch, Romanian, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Kiswahili, Shona, Ndebele, Nepali, Portuguese, Hindi, Rabat, Italian, Japanese and Afrikaans.

39. Nine United Nations information centres have undertaken audio-visual production activities, ranging from local language subtitling of Department of Public Information film material to fully fledged production of local radio or television programmes. Some of these activities were outlined in the previous report to the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.166/PC/15). Additional activities include UNIC Windhoek’s collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and the Namibian Broadcasting Company to produce three one-minute television spots on population, social development and women which promote the interlinkage of the three

conferences, as well as the co-production, duplication and distribution of a one-hour television documentary.

40. Fifteen United Nations information centres have undertaken special outreach activities to brief journalists about the Summit and the issues. For example, United Nations information services in Addis Ababa and Santiago and United Nations information centres in Beirut, Dar es Salaam, Lagos and New Delhi undertook one- or two-day symposia for journalists; United Nations information centres in Brussels, Dhaka, Harare, Manila, Port of Spain, Rabat and Sydney held special briefings or press conferences.

41. Seventeen United Nations information centres have held seminars, round tables or other outreach activities for non-governmental organizations, government agencies, parliamentarians, academics or youth groups. Some of these activities were held in collaboration with national committees for the Summit, national United Nations associations, other members of the United Nations system and/or NGO groups.

42. Many United Nations information centres have generated their own press releases, newsletters or other material about the Summit for local use.

5. Media outreach

43. A series of regional journalists' briefings/round tables are being held to raise awareness about the issues and to increase coverage of the Summit in key media. The first of these briefings/round tables was held in Santiago, Chile, on 24 and 25 November. The Department funded 10 journalists from the Latin American region to attend the round table. In addition, nine journalists from Chile attended. Sixteen additional local and international media personnel attended the opening and closing sessions. The round table was organized by the United Nations Information Service in Santiago, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP and the Department of Public Information.

44. The second round table was held in Copenhagen from 5 to 8 December by the Danish Information Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Eighteen journalists from Europe, Africa and Asia attended.

45. A one-day briefing for journalists is planned to be held in London on 11 January at the Foreign Press Association. About 50 journalists from the British press, from London-based foreign media and from Europe are expected to attend. The briefing is being organized by the Department of Public Information in cooperation with the United Nations information centre in London, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO. The following day, 12 January, a luncheon briefing for about 100 NGOs, academics and parliamentarians will be held, in cooperation with the Overseas Development Institute in London.

46. Other round tables being planned include one in Amman for Arabic media and one in New York, immediately after the third session of the Preparatory Committee, for North American media commentators and columnists.

47. Immediately prior to the Summit, on 5 March 1994, a one-day briefing for all journalists attending the Summit will be held in Copenhagen to brief them on the issues and what to expect during the Summit.

48. Press clippings on the Summit are being compiled every month from the major media and news agencies at the national level as received from United Nations information centres and other sources. As of 1 December, more than 400 articles have been included from some 30 countries.